

Do you have a secret admirer? Check out these messages of love!

CENTERSPREAD
Milestones through the decades.

ZerOsum spices up South with unique sounds.

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THE SABRES' BLADE

South Mecklenburg High School

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2000

Volume XXVI

Snow Sends South Into Flurries

By Jennifer Samuels
CENTERSPREAD EDITOR

Charlotte-Mecklenburg students got an unexpected surprise during early January 2000: Snow! Despite the reputation that the south has for not having any kind of winter, these freak January storms proved that the norm is never absolute.

The areas of the Southeast that were hardest hit include Atlanta, Georgia, and parts of South Carolina with the heaviest recorded at two feet in Raleigh, N.C. Here in Charlotte, up to eight inches of snow fell over the course of two days. Thousands of people found themselves without power during the storm. Some places, including Union County, are still without electricity which. Temperatures hovered at or below freezing for nearly a week, something that most North Carolinians are not used to.

As a result of the snow, Charlotte-Mecklenburg students

Staff Photographer Julia Flumian



missed three and a half days of school (two and a half one week and one day the previous week). On Monday, January 24, the superintendent, Dr. Eric Smith, was forced to close down school around 11 am and send everyone home due to the bad weather. Smith waited until eleven to shut down so that the day would not be counted against Spring Break. The next two days of school were canceled due to heat and power

losses in schools and hazardous road conditions in many areas. Unfortunately, the missed days forced the school board to take away the teacher workdays scheduled for February and March. It has been said that part of Spring Break would also be taken, but rumor has it that officials are declaring the "artic blast," a state of national emergency. If the rumor hold true students would not have to

make up the missed days but would be able to enjoy their entire Spring Break. The issue is still pending.

Television stations delighted in the "late breaking" news of Charlotte's disaster and they continue to call it the "snowy blast," "wintry mix" and "artic blast." As January moves on the meteorologists predict that more snow and ice will visit Charlotte making room for more missed days and cabin fever.

Ask any South Meck student if they minded missing school and the answer will be a hearty "No!" "I really enjoyed walking in the snow and playing in it," 12th grader Nipa Doshi says. Many others agree that the snow was a Kodak moment: once school began again, students carried around pictures of their snow creations like badges of honor. From sledding on the hill behind "C" building to impromptu snowball fights, Charlotte's own "Winter 2000" will be hard to beat.

Mock Trial Wins Regional Competition

By Cat Traphagan
EDITOR IN CHIEF

South Meck's Mock Trial Team went to Regional Competition on November 8, 1999 and, by beating Myers Park in the finals, took home the gold. Both J.V. and Varsity teams went to competition; however, only Varsity won.

Individual awards carried both teams high. J. V awards consisted of Kira Sherman as best witness, Ken Mikami won best witness, and Alicia Towler as best attorney. On Varsity, Shell Thaxton won best attorney and Larisa Yasinovskaya won best witness in the preliminary and final competition.

This year's competition gives each team a challenge consisting of a criminal case that involves an assault on a foreign exchange student. The witness, Nickola Nemo, was acted out by Larisa Yasinovskaya. Alexander Elkinov, played by Peter Patnik, was on the prosecution side as well. These were the witnesses and victims of the crime committed. The defense was made up of Jamie Anderson, also played by Patnaik, and Jamies' friends. Senior, Shell Thaxton, presided as the lawyer for both the prosecution and the defense. The story for the trial was put together by a group of experienced attorneys. Each team had to argue both the prosecution and defense of the case presented.

The competition was judged by a jury composed of experienced lawyers. The presiding judge was either an actual court justice or another attorney.

Mock Trial will be headed to Raleigh for the State Competition. States were originally scheduled for January 29 but were canceled due to the burst of snowy weather. The competition team will be made up of seniors Shell Thaxton, Peter Patnik, Larisa Yasinovskaya, and Tripp Howie. The junior members will be Bobby French and Ryan Persaud.

Senior Follies 2000: Send Me On My Way

By Cat Traphagan
EDITOR IN CHIEF

As February rolls around, Seniors are gearing up to show off their talents at Senior Follies 2000. This year's theme is "Send Me On My Way," a song by Rusted Root. Senior Follies consists of two acts of fun with Emcee's Jon Pfeiffer, Chris Gordon, Julia Flumian and Lauren Tate.

It is filled with hilarious skits performed by clubs such as National Honor Society and Beta displaying the younger years of our teachers. Seniors Men and Interkeys follow the tradition of good-hearted teasing towards each other. Of course Smedra is in the line up with Three Silly Scenes from South. There will also be tear jerking songs sung by individual Sabres as well as a band made up of seniors Sabres. February 11 and 12 are sure to be days of laughter and tears for all students, and faculty at South Mecklenburg. Tickets are being sold in the mall during all lunches for \$5.00. The show starts at 7:30 pm. See you there!

By Neil Smith
STAFF REPORTER

First year football coach Carlton Bailey denies rumors that he has resigned from either his faculty or coaching position at South. Bailey, a former NFL standout, was hired for this school year as a principal's assistant and served as the interim head football coach. Bailey's original contract with South was for one year, at the end of which he could apply for the job of head football coach. Bailey has not made an official decision as to whether he will return next year.

This year's football team, despite a losing record, moved in a positive direction. The games were well attended and the team displayed unity by singing a song in the courtyard. Next year Bailey may not be part of rebuilding South's football program.

During his time at South, which he calls "one of the best

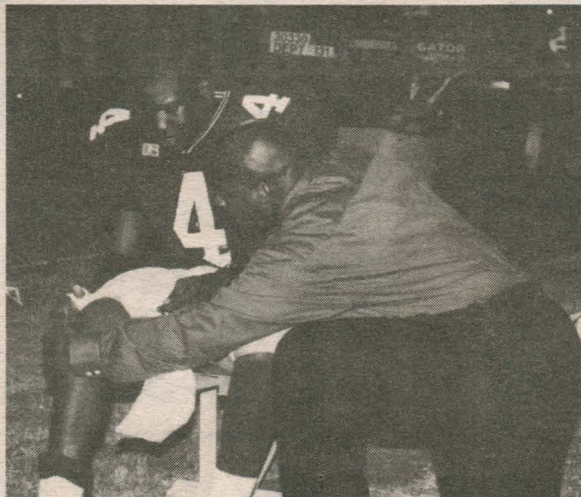
Coach Bailey's Future Questionable

experiences of his life," Bailey has found pleasure in relating his positive experiences to students both on and off the football field. As a coach, Bailey has formed strong relationships with his players and tried to instill in them qualities such as

continue working with great student athletes and tremendous parent support are the factors that might entice Bailey to return to South.

Off the field, Bailey has enjoyed getting to know all the students at South. His positions allow him to interact with students in several ways. He is an administrator, a disciplinarian, a substitute teacher, and a positive role model.

There are also several factors that might dissuade Bailey from returning to South. A new rule requires all high school sports coaches to hold teaching positions. In his current position, Bailey would not meet the requirements to be a head coach. He is not attracted to the idea of becoming a full time teacher because he would have to go back to school. As of now Bailey is still deciding his future.



Guest Photographer

dedication, perseverance, and discipline. Bailey has especially enjoyed coaching at this level because he considers high school football "the purest form of the sport." The desire to con-

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The Social Evil of Capitalism

By Larisa Yasinovskaya
BUSINESS MANAGER

I was reading *Glamour* magazine last night and came across an experiment they conducted. A pregnant woman got on crowded buses, subways, etc. to test how many people would give up a seat for her. She found that only 53% of the time — 10 out of 19 trials — someone gave her a seat. She recounted her worst experience as when she was one of only two people standing, and a young man motioned to her to take his seat — as he was getting off! I was appalled by this, yet many Americans may not see what's wrong with that scenario. But I will venture to say that may not necessarily be their fault, rather

the society's. More specifically, capitalistic society's.

Now, I would just like to say that I am a patriot, and love capitalism. I love all my shoes and my car, and an overabundance of food that is provided for by capitalism. However, the socially devastating side effect of capitalism is individualism. You may ask, what's wrong with that? For, in essence, you have been taught all your life to be individual, and cannot comprehend functioning in another way. But I am from the former USSR (and I am NOT advocating communism), but I can, from an outsider's point of view, see the drawbacks of individualism, and thus capitalism.

I can't even conceive of not

giving up my seat (on a bus or train) for a pregnant woman, or an elderly individual. To me, it's really just a matter of common courtesy. And I'm not saying that one would be looked down upon by people in Russia for not giving up a seat, I am saying that the concept doesn't even exist. It wouldn't happen. That society is structured to help other people. One would give up the seat and the thought of not doing so would not even enter one's mind. There is simply no other way.

But the American "pull-yourself-up-by-your-own-bootstraps" mentality has made Americans strictly self-serving. The reasoning of many consists of "If there is nothing in it for me, why should I do it?" I am not

saying that there are no considerate people in America, I'm just saying that the majority of Americans are, well, American. Their concern lies distinctly with themselves, the rest of the people around them just have to fare for themselves.

Now, some of you may be inclined to label me a raving Democrat who advocates "big-brother" policy. On the contrary, I am not. I don't believe in that at all. I think that people are responsible for themselves and their actions, as opposed to the "big-brother" policy that argues that we are responsible for one another. All I am saying is that, despite our American values of "do-it-yourself" maybe we could just be a little nicer and courteous to each other.

Politically Correct or Just an Excuse?

By Chris Austin
STAFF REPORTER

Do you consider yourself politically correct, a.k.a. one of those crazy tree hugging activists who wants to sue the government because the faces on the dollar bills aren't ethnically diverse? It seems that political correctness is a pathetic excuse to cry and moan about any and everything. For example, can you believe that someone would get offended if I were to wish them a Merry Christmas? The politically correct term is seasons greetings. WHAT IS A SEASONS GREETING???? It is one of those nit picky little correct terms that is meant to suck the fun and life out of everything.

A prime example was this Jesse Jackson thing in Decatur, Illinois. He was trying to get these kids out of expulsion for getting in a fight at a football game. His argument was that the kids were being treated differently because of their race. Well, I hate to tell you Jesse, but you are wasting your time. The kids aren't getting expelled because of their race; it's because they were stupid enough to get in a fight in front of a whole stand full of people. And then they tried to say that they were being punished for being black!

Let's be honest, in this day and age people are going to form stereotypical opinions of you one way or another. If you want to be one of those politically correct people who whine and moan over everything, be my guest. Personally I'm going to go ahead and form my own little opinion of you and tell you to shut your annoying mouth. And that's the bottom line.

What Is the Class of 2000 Really Leading?

By Julia Flumian
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The class of 2000 has been hyped as the next revolution. Our teachers made us part of the "smoke free class of 2000" long before many of us knew what that meant. We are being called the leaders of the new century - they have even put it on our class rings. But now the question arises, what exactly are we leading? Are we allowed to lead ourselves? It certainly does not seem that way with all of the asinine rules we are asked to follow such as the tardy and escort policy. Are we leading each other? It does not appear that way with how we act towards one another sometimes. We are

leading nothing more than paltzy high school lives with a few moments of trivial joy shoved in every now and then. We are simply going through the motions of high school and waxing philosophically about the stereotypical "truth." Football and standardized tests are two things that run this school, neither of which are very impressive. But if these are the things that we are supposed to be doing, why are we being asked to lead anything?

Our class has been placed in this position long before any of us even wanted to do our own laundry. So the question still remains what are we leading? Are we leading the way to the next century at all, or are we just be-

ing pushed into a role in which no one has any interest in participating? Or maybe our class is too tired from the night before that none of us have noticed that the time to grow up is only a few months away. Adulthood is knocking down our doors and many of us are running away. And on top of all of the pressures that come with being in high school in the first place we are being called the leaders of the new century. It appears that we are all a little tired of having to do things. We are always being told to get that higher SAT score or earning fours on the silliness that is senior exit. As a class we are becoming tired of being pushed around and prodded. The class of 2000 is ready

for life to be easier. The only problem is that we *know* that it isn't going to get any easier. College is going to be harder. Getting a job is going to be harder. This really is the best time in our lives and aren't we all just a little disappointed?

What is the point? Are we all going to get up tomorrow morning with a better attitude hoping that everything is going to work out okay? Maybe there is something out there for us to lead, more than our high school lives. It is time that we started leading towards the door, or graduation day at least. But the class of 2000 can do more than walk across a stage, we can procrastinate before we do it.

The Sabres' Blade wishes Good Luck to the South Meck Mock Trial Team at the State Competition.

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Billie: An Up and Coming Star



Picture courtesy of www.svetglasbe.si/doc/k0192.htm

The newest up and coming pop sensation is Billie. Billie hails from Swindon, on the UK and began performing in local drama and singing groups when she was six. She won a full scholarship to study at Sylvia Young, a theater school in London, whose other alumni include Emma Bunton from the Spice Girls and all three of All Saints. Her big break came as part of an ad campaign for "Smash Hits," a UK pop magazine, where she was the face behind the relaunch of the magazine.

This led to her being discovered by Virgin Records and having two number one singles in the UK. Another big highlight for Billie recently was having "She Wants You," her first single, chosen as the theme for the US women's soccer team, and getting to perform it live

before their championship game.

Her second US single "Honey to the Bee" has a really great tempo and there are some really great dance mixes of it. Billie says that she picked Pop music because she's always been into it and it has made a comeback. At the time she started, there were The Spice Girls, the boy bands, but no female soloist on the scene, and she set out to change that. It just so happened that she got signed up then - the timing was really good. She says she feels good performing pop music and doesn't think she could do anything else. It comes naturally to her and she loves jumping on-stage, and this music lends itself to it.

On her performance in the Women's World Cup, she says that it was great but nerve

wracking because she had never performed in front of a large American crowd. She says that never the less it was "wicked" and that she was both honored and flattered to have had it chosen and to be performing.

She says that she doesn't mind being compared to Christina Aguilera or Brittany Spears, she actually thinks that they have a lot in common. The message that she wants to convey to young girls, she says is, to be positive, and passionate, and determined, and to just enjoy youth.

To get more information on Billie check out www.shagg.com or www.virginrecords.com/billie.

Information provided by Virgin Records Press Release.

Jimmy's Chicken Shack Lights Up the Scene

Jimmie's Chicken Shack's new CD, *Bring Your Own Stereo*, has a rather eclectic mixture of music, ranging from blues to hard rock. The second CD from the group, featuring the songs "Trash" and "Waiting," is a follow-up CD to their first, *Pushing the Salamanilla Envelope*. The first CD hits like "High." The first record was put forth as angry. However, *Bring Your Own Stereo* is fueled by a whole different set of emotions, this CD just expresses feeling good and having fun. Two of the hits, "Trash" and "Waiting" are completely different sounding songs from the rest of the album. Leading Singer Jimmy Ha-Ha explains, "That's kind of how we do stuff and that's what our shows have always been about too" [being different].

"Known for their electric

live gigs and no-holds-barred approach to making music, Jimmy's Chicken Shack take things to another level on *Bring Your Own Stereo*, their press release contends. The song "Do Right" is another variation from their usual message. Ha-Ha says that it expresses the frustration he had with a girlfriend who only talked about his shortcomings. Ha-Ha laughs that his ex-girlfriend figures heavily into his last album. In fact, the whole CD is about her.

Ha-Ha admits that songwriting is as important to him as any essential bodily functions. "I'm like a faucet and I like to keep it on so my plumbing stays clean, I just spit out a lot of stuff." Mistakes are crucial, in fact, Jimmy's Chicken Shack's philosophy is to expect the unexpected and embrace

their mistakes. This formula seems to be working for them, for it has made them formidable musicians both on and off the road.

Ha-Ha got his musical start in a second grade elementary show singing the Beach Boy's song "Surfin'." Then he started playing music when he was 12 and singing when he was 15. His musical influences include the Beatles, Jimi Hendrix, and the Grateful Dead.

Bring Your Own Stereo, is an apt title for a band who pulls together so many different sounds. "Every song on the album is so different it kind of says what it is," says Ha-Ha.

Check out their website at www.jimmieschickenshack.com.

Information provided by Island Def Jam Recording Music Group.



Laser Hypnotica Is the Newest Rage

The pulsating, electric, off beat music known to many as techno is now the newest attraction at the Charlotte Observer OMNIMAX Theater at Discovery Place. The museum now presents its laser show, Laser Hypnotica on Friday and Saturday nights at 10:15 pm.

Combining over the top laser visuals with the pounding rhythm of this electric dance-rock sound, Laser Hypnotica is a laser techno odyssey that will appeal to the most casual techno-music fans. Laser Hypnotica's lasers pound to the music of techno giants like Prodigy, The Chemical Brothers, and Fatboy Slim. Also highlighted in Hypnotica are the unconventional, offbeat sounds of Bjork's "State of Emergency," Faithless's "Insomnia," and The Crystal Method's "Coming Back." Other techno-electric songs include, "Love Island" by Fatboy Slim, "Narayan" by Prodigy, and "Silence" by Delirium.

The shows cost \$6.50. Discovery Place is located on North Tryon Street between 6 and 7 streets in Uptown Charlotte. For more information call: 372-6261 x 300.

LASER SHOWS

Laser Hypnotica
Fri and Sat 10:15 pm
Pink Floyd's "The Wall"
Fri and Sat 11:30 pm

OTHER FEATURES AT DISCOVERY PLACE

OMNIMAX

Olympic Glory

Mon-Thurs 11 am, 1 and 4 pm
Fri 11 am, 1, 4 and 7 pm
Sat 12, 3, 5 and 7 pm
Sun 3, 5 and 7 pm

Mysteries of Egypt

Mon-Thurs 12 and 3pm
Fri 12, 3, and 8 pm
Sat 9 pm

T-Rex: Back to the Cretaceous

Fri 9 pm
Sat 11 am, 1 pm, 4 pm, 8 pm
Sun 1 pm, 4 pm, and 8 pm

PLANETARIUM

Search For Life in the Universe

Mon and Wed 2 pm
Tues and Thurs 10 am and 2 pm
Fri 2 pm and 6 pm
Sat 10 am, 2 pm, and 6 pm
Sun 2 pm and 6 pm

Frontiers in Space

Mon and Wed 10 am

Information courtesy of Discovery Place

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Don't miss the Job Fair at Paramount's Carowinds, located at I-77, exit 90. Go past the main entrance and turn right onto Catawba Trace. Park in the associate parking lot. The Human Resources Office is located at the end of the walkway. If you can't make it to the Job Fair, stop by the Human Resources Offices any Mon. - Sat. from 9am - 6pm to fill out an application.

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The History of Valentine's Day

Larisa Yasinovskaya

BUSINESS MANAGER

The history of Valentine's Day is quite interesting. Some of what we do today originally had no basis in love. Actually Valentine's Day is a combination of several events in history. The term "Valentine" comes from a priest who lived in Rome during the reign of Claudius named

Valentine. He was greatly honored and revered by many Christians, but his great claim to fame came during a time of war. Claudius was fighting many wars and summoning citizens to fight in them. Yet, many men refused, not wanting to leave their wives and sweethearts.

In this, Claudius declared that there could be no more

weddings in Rome. Yet a priest named Valentine disobeyed the emperor's order and married many couples secretly, sympathizing with their problem. However, Claudius found out about this and threw Valentine into a dungeon, where he died. Allegedly, before he died he prayed for a prison guard's blind daughter to be given her sight, and after she was, he said "from your Valentine." The date of his death is the fourteenth of

February.

The custom of exchanging gifts came from the medieval days of chivalry when the names of English maidens were drawn from a box by a bachelor. He attended to and protected her for the year and the couple also exchanged gifts. This old custom of drawing names in such a fashion was considered a good omen for love, and resulted in many weddings; thus it was, and still is, considered a

time for love and gift giving.

Flowers for Valentine's Day are attributed to the daughter of Henry IV who gave a party in honor of Saint Valentine. Each lady was given a bouquet of flowers by a man chosen to be her Valentine.

Valentine's Day as we know it actually came from Italy, England, and France. It was also rooted in Claudius' bloody war and the martyrdom of a priest for love.

Messages of... LOVE

To: Dearest Denise
From: Secret Admirer
I've seen you around, and I think you're pretty. Be my valentine and I'll be yours.

To: Hughs Hice
From: QHPC Girls
You're the stud from QHPC. Hey man, watch the leather. HeHeHeHe.

To: David Alexander Kovacs
From: Leah
Every time you're away, my heart aches. Love and fried mushrooms.

To: April Maxwell
From: Junior Hutchins
I love you.

To: Brittany Myers
From: Jon Robertson
I love you. Do you love me?

To: Nikki
From: Johnathan Phillips
I love you, kid. Have a happy Valentine's Day. Be mine!!

To: Johnathan
From: Nikki
Have you ever sat and talked with friends, and a word was never said?

To: Haley Smith
From: Amber Reynolds
Thank you for always knowing what to do to make me feel better.

To: Amy Ross
From: Jason Peterson
I love you, Happy Valentine's Day.

To: The Three Pretty Girls at the Table
From: Anonymous
Good job stealing people's money for this.

To: AC
From: DJ
Few people are fortunate to have a true friend. Thank you for making me one of the elect to have a friend who's more than true.

To: The Sabre's Blade
From: Ms. Holm
You have done a wonderful

job this year! You've been a great staff to work with! Have a fun Valentine's Day!

To: LaMario Spence
From: Nina Tobias
Sending you all my love, to someone very special. I love ya!

To: THW
From: SRP
True love means I care enough to fight for what we have and that I love enough not to let go. I love you.

To: My Wonderful SMHS Smedra
From: Mr. Aaron
Happy Valentine's Day!

To: Kerry Thaxton
From: Alonzo Pearson
I love you.

To: Melissa Jackson
From: Alonzo Pearson
I love you.

To: Aleah Busch
From: Mario Spence
Have a Happy Valentine's Day!!

To: Maggie Kao
From: Phillip Bush
Hey baby, I love you, chocolate cake and bubblebath.

To: Clark
From: Terri
Clark, I want your body. Happy Valentine's Day. You'll find a girl soon!

To: Erin McFutrye
From: David
Happy Valentine's, I love you!

To: Nina Tobias
From: Mario Spence
Baby, I love you!!

To: Shannon Pasotto
From: Nate
You are the light of my life. I love you, Munchkin!

To: Lisa Long, Courtney Poole, Stefanie Trotta, Millie Eade, Brit-tany Hayes
From: Papi Chulo — Victor
¡Las quiero mucho! ¡Ustedes

son mis amor! ¡Las recordare mucho! ¡Ustedes son hermosas besitos!

To: Mike Graham
From: Jill Dyer
Hey Baby! I love you so much! Thank you so much for the best year of my life.

To: Samantha Fay
From: Ryan Murray — Penguin Man
Hey Monkey Girl, thanks for the hook-up.

To: Shawn
From: Denise
I love you and you mean the world to me.

To: To My Keyclub Cowboy
From: Lisa
Take me away. Happy Valentine's Day, Love Lisa.

To: Neil
From: Secret Admirer
You're my sunshine after the rain, you're the cure against my fear and my pain.

To: Katy McClure
From: Mark Wahlberg
Katy, you're absolutely beautiful. I adore you. Love, Marky

To: John Lingen
From: Virginia Jolly
Hey John, will you be mine, my Valentine? Love, Virginia.

To: Katy McClure
From: The Volvo
I love you, Katy.

To: Dale Gillis
From: Griffin
Love you, Griffin.

To: Moarid
From: Jade
You are my everything. I love you, my dark knight.

To: John Robertson
From: Ashley Ferguson
I dream about you every night. Love you.

To: All the Students of South Meck
From: Dr. Knox

CHOCOLATE CHUNK CHOCOLATE COOKIES

Sometimes the best way to get to your honey is to sweeten him or her up with some cookies. Try this easy recipe. Keep in mind the measurements will produce a large batch, so you can treat all of your friends.

All you need for this recipe is:

- ◆ one 18-1/4 oz package chocolate fudge cake mix
- ◆ 10 oz semisweet chocolate (broken into small chunks)
- ◆ two 5-1/8 oz packages of chocolate fudge pudding mix
- ◆ 1/2 chopped walnuts
- ◆ 1-1/2 cups mayonnaise (that's the strange ingredient!)

Directions:

- ◆ Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Combine the first four ingredients in a medium bowl, then mix in mayonnaise. Shape dough by 2 tablespoons into balls and place on an ungreased cookie sheet (2 inches apart). Bake about 12 minutes.

You'll get about 48 cookies.

Happy Valentine's Day!
To: Jen Culberson
From: Steven Constant
Will you be my Valentine?

To: Mr. Hickel
From: Ms. Hickel
Happy Valentine's Day to the sweetest Dad ever!!! From the sweetest daughter.

To: AS
From: KM
Lovers of the world unite!

To: Amber Reynolds, Teresa Cauble, Jason Lee, and Steven Rosas
From: Nikki DeFrance
I love you guys! You're great!

To: Lindsay Leamer
From: Harrison Ford
Lindsay,
I miss you. Come and visit again soon. Happy Valentine's Day.

To: Mary Vidky, Hector, Emma, Manuel, and Nipa
Happy Valentine's Day. I love you all <3
Love,
Sandra R. Epps

To: Haley Houghton
From: Ben Affleck
Haley, you are the best Valentine I could ask for! Gwyneth is nothing compared to you!!

To: Carrie
I love you so very much, my dark angel.
Love,
Chris

From: The Phantom

I love all my students.
Hi Jaime,
Be my Valentine. Call me 543-6536

To: Matt Morse and Derek Smit, our future BsB
You are our one desire.
Love always,
Lisa, Meg, and Stefanie

To: Laura Simmons
From: Zach
"They's a hidin' it from us," and get the screen out faster next time. Happy Valentine's Day. I love you!

To: All my students
From: Ms. Estes
You all are the best art students in the ENTIRE WORLD! Happy V-Day.

To: Mike Hopkins
From: Julia Flumian
Whole Bunches

To: Zac Carter
From: Secret Admirer
I wanna love you forever.

To: Ashleigh Russel
From: Ryan Murray
Hey Twin,
You're the best twin a twin could ever have.

-Your twin
To: Bern
From: Brendan
You are the sun in my sky, when I think of our love I cry. On Valentines day I will sing a song to the girl who's love I have always longed.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Senior Mysteries



By Neil Smith
STAFF REPORTER

This senior mystery attends almost every event at South. You may have heard his voice on the announcements or seen him host the Miss South Pageant. This senior performs in the orchestra and plays a major roll in South's pep rallies. You may have seen him blanketing the crowd with smoke at the last pep rally. He is an excellent student, a member of both the National Honor Society and the Beta Club. He can be found at a Statistics AP study group or surfing the net on his high-tech computer. Next year look for him at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he plans to pursue a business degree. He also holds one of the highest student offices at South. Still don't know? Check page 10.



By Dustin Joyce
GRAPHICS EDITOR

This senior mystery student believes "two wrongs don't make a right, but they sure do make us even." She has one hobby — reading — and two pet peeves — ignorance and stupidity. When it comes to sports, she plays "anything that they'll let me play." One thing she'd like everyone to know is that although she may seem pretty mean most of the time, she really is nice, and if anyone needs help they can come to her. If you still haven't figured out who she is, it may be helpful to know that if her '98 black cherry Altima needs washing, all she has to do is take it to work since she works at AutoBell. If you're still all washed up and can't figure out who this senior is, turn to page 10 and unravel the mystery.

Messages of Love...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

To: Alisha Stinson
From: Your Big Brother
To the best, loving, sweet, caring, hugable, and athletic sister in the world. I love you.

To: Cherry Jubes and Strawberries
From: Anonymous
Stay away from men.

To: JM
From: SM
Hope you like me. I am in love with you.

To: Allison Lyons
From: Andy Stumpf
Happy Valentine's Day. To love life and happiness for all time.

To: Shannon
From: Taurea'n
More than words can say, faster than tears may fall. I love you more than anyone you can ever recall. I wasn't the greatest partner towards you,

but now after another chance, our companionship shall renew.

To: MF
From: SL
I enjoyed our wonderful night together. Please be my Valentine.

To: My students
From: Ms. Susan J. Smith
For the magic in your smiles, and the laughter we have shared;
For the way you listen and you care;
For the hard work that you do and the ideas I get from you;
For the values that you live and the truths that you give;
For your polite and winning ways that put the happiness in my days;
For working with me, as I work with you,
I thank you, and wish you a Happy Valentine's Day.

To: Sheila Chin
From: Derek Smit
I Love You. (YCM)

Happy Valentine's Day!!
from THE SABRES' BLADE

Toby Will Be Missed

Dear The Sabres' Blade,

Known to most as the "Cool guy in the lower lot," campus security officer Toby Mabe will be missed at South Mecklenburg. Mr. Mabe ended his short two year tenure November 19th, 1999.

Mr. Mabe, a graduate from South Meck, began his employment last year as a campus caretaker, but has since been promoted to campus security. The loss of Mr. Mabe will be a great one. Mr. Mabe has helped me and many other people by giving advice, or just lending a helping hand. Mr. Mabe said that he wanted to seize the moment so he accepted the new job in order to be closer with students.

Although he had to leave early, Mr. Mabe made the best of his time here at South. He

made numerous friends and acquaintances such as Amanda Smithwick who says, "Toby is the nicest person to ever work at South." He also took the time to relate to students, better understanding what they go through every day. Mr. Mabe also has a great personality; he shares his time and life experiences with numerous people. I have seen Mr. Mabe talking and helping many students. His advice to a troubled student was "For the student to give the teachers total respect even if they feel as though they have been mistreated."

Mr. Mabe has been working to form a Christian club called First Priority. This club will meet Tuesday mornings in room F-7 from 6:45 to 7:20 am.

Jason Nark

Saved by the Bell

Dear The Sabres' Blade,

In the future, the household television experience will be drastically different from what it is today. The aspect of television that will change the most is the technology used to receive and view programs. Television sets will be digital and the signals received from Internet broadcasts. Even with the improvements of technology, the basic programs shown on television will remain essentially unchanged. In the future, television broadcasts will still offer programs such as news, movies, sporting events, and episodes of classic shows. The one show that will be broadcast is "Saved By the Bell."

Why will "Saved By the Bell" still be shown on television in the future? It is a classic American television show for two reasons. The influence it has had on other television programs and the way it has become part of the

culture of an entire generation. As the first successful television show aimed at teens, "Saved By the Bell" has become the blueprint from which all subsequent teen shows have been modeled. Many of today's successful teen shows, such as "Dawson's Creek" and "Beverly Hills 90210" have gained their success from using concepts pioneered by "Saved By the Bell." These concepts include incorporating real teen problems as well as popular teen culture into the show.

The characters and situations present in episodes of "Saved By the Bell" have become integrated into American culture. Millions of viewers have followed these six students and their principal Mr. Belding from middle school through college. There are few Americans, under the age of 21, that are not familiar with Zach Morris or have not laughed at the zany actions of Screech Powers.

The characters of "Saved By the Bell" showed America the joys of being young as well as the dangers of alcohol, drugs, and smoking. Zach's courtship of Kelly defined romance for a generation. Millions of viewers felt Zach's pain as Kelly broke up with him at their senior prom and rejoiced as they got back together and were married. Program enthusiasts cared about these characters so much they began to become friends.

Although new "Saved By the Bell" episodes have not been produced since the early nineties, through cable television new generations have been able to get to know and love the classic characters; Kelly, Zach, Jesse, AC, Lisa, and Screech. The eternal themes and the addictive quality of "Saved By the Bell" have ensured the show a place in television long into the future.

Anonymous

Club News

National Honor Society

Directories are completed and will be distributed in February.

Yearbook

The yearbook will be finished in February. This was a record setting year for the number of books sold.

Sabre Lacrosse

Practice began February 1. Many players are returning and making this year the most promising ever.

Octagon Service Club

Look for many valuable service projects from them in the future.



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Courtesy of THE SABRES' BLADE

What the Future Holds

The second millennium is over. The past 1000 years have brought about many changes that have made the world what it is today. What can we look forward to in the future? Many people have presented their ideas of what is to come in movies (*Back to the Future*) or books (1984). Here is what we would like to see happen:

Floating Cars

Cures for All Diseases

World Peace

Lightning-Speed Internet Connections

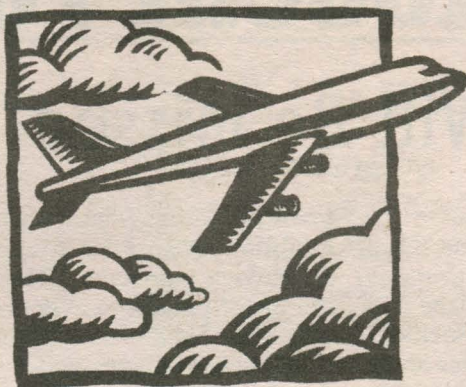
No Discrimination or Prejudice

More Diversity

Underwater Cities

Space Colonization

A Remote to control Everything in the House



2000 • 2001 • 2002 • 2003 • 2004 • 2005 • 2006 • 2007 • 2008 • 2009

LOOKING FORWARD

The Entertainment Evolution

By Jennifer Samuels
CENTERSPREAD EDITOR

The 1990s will always be remembered as the decade that brought a resurgence of the entertainment industry. Whether it was in movies, on TV, or in another form of the entertainment/arts industry, the past decade has brought many sweeping changes that will carry over into the new millennium.

Perhaps the aspect of the entertainment industry most changed during the 1990s has been the film industry. The last decade of the 20th century saw movies move from having a cheap budget of \$40 million to an era where \$200 million budgets are commonplace. The most important trend that can be seen throughout the 1990s is the introduction of the epic movie. Some of them are blockbusters, such as *Jurassic Park* and *Forrest Gump*; others are art-house classics like *The English Patient* and *Shakespeare in Love*. However, the aspect that all of these films have in common is a

tendency to have a large budget, make an excessive profit, and create stars out of its often unknown actors. Unfortunately, the trend towards bigger budgets and bigger movies does not always result in success. One needs to look only to *Waterworld* — the first well-known movie to surpass a \$200 million budget — to see the effects that excess can have. This movie suffered from bad publicity and a public backlash; as a result, it made very little money and is widely considered to be one of the biggest disappointments ever.

Although television has been around since the 1950s, the 1990s will always be remembered as the decade that changed it. The sitcom was refined and perfected during this decade. While there are still many shows that fail (mainly as a result of TV executives trying to clone all popular shows with little success), the decade also saw some of the best and most well written sitcoms ever — including *Friends*, *Seinfeld*, and *Frasier*. The success of these

shows are an example of the fact that most people are interested in a good story told with top-notch writing. Another aspect of the television industry that has seen itself become reinvented is the drama. Many barriers were broken in the 1990s, including the taboo of profanity, nudity, and violence on prime-time TV. *NYPD Blue* and its harsh depiction of life as a police officer drew gold ratings. Super-producer David E. Kelley, creator of shows such as *Ally McBeal* and *The Practice* became the hardest-working writer in showbiz — he wrote most episodes of his three series by himself! However, despite the improvement of network television, one of the major trends throughout the decade has been the increasing popularity of cable. By providing the viewer with choices that are more edgy and are often better written than the major networks, cable has become a big success. The trend started with HBO's *The Larry Sanders Show* and *Dream On* and has evolved to such sharp and

witty shows such as *Sex in the City* and *The Sopranos*.

In addition to movies and television, Broadway experienced a resurgence in attendance, especially among the younger generation. Much of this shift can be attributed to the success of *Rent*, an incredible rock opera about life at the end of the millennium that appealed to youth with both its powerful songs and relevant message. Other factors that increased theater attendance included more edgy plays, such as *bash*, starring Calista Flockhart, and *The Blue Room*, featuring a naked Nicole Kidman.

Despite the recent improvements in the aspects of the entertainment industry described above, the future truly lies in the internet. The recent merger of Time Warner Entertainment and America Online cements the fact that, in the new millennium, entertainment will be interactive. One can only wait and wonder what is in store for the future.

The Changing Face of Politics

By Lindsay Buchert
STAFF REPORTER

The 1990s were a decade shaped by politics and its downfalls. From impeachment to wrestling governors, it seemed that no one knew what would happen next.

In 1992, Bill Clinton, former governor of Arkansas, defeated George Bush, the incumbent, and Ross Perot, the independent. The White House was then turned over to the Democrats. However, the Republicans were still in the majority in Congress. This would later cause major problems. At one point the Congress reached a deadlock and the government actually shut down. The cause was a problem that plagued the government for the entire decade, as well as quite a few decades and congresses prior to this one: trying to obtain a balanced budget. While it was established that a balanced budget would not come about immediately, each party had its own year in the near future

when this balance would be reached. Again in 1996, Bill Clinton ran for president and won, defeating Bob Dole and Ross Perot - again. However, this term was, and still is, faced with problems resulting from Whitewater and a sex scandal. Whitewater was a bogus real-estate deal in Arkansas which involved Clinton and his wife, Hillary, and caused a bank to close. It was comparable to Richard Nixon's Watergate scandal. Furthermore, a sex scandal with a White House intern rocked both the United States as well as the world. What began as a sexual harassment suit by Paula Jones of Arkansas led to Clinton's admitted extramarital affair with the intern Monica Lewinsky. After lying about the affair under oath, the federal judiciary committee, led by Henry Hyde, subpoenaed taped phone conversations between Lewinsky and friend Linda Tripp and others to investigate the matter. This further led to Clinton's impeachment for per-

jury, the first time a president had been impeached since Andrew Johnson in 1867. He was later acquitted, though, and not removed from office.

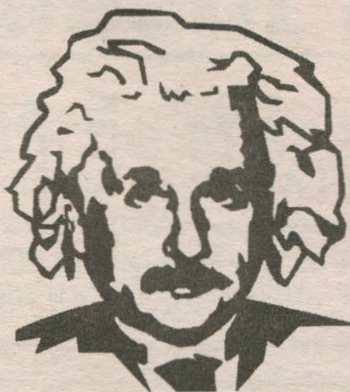
More recently, a host of celebrities has reportedly spoken of running for political office. After the November 1998 election of Minnesota governor and former wrestler Jesse "The Body" Ventura, there have been talk of other celebrities running for office. The publicity Ventura has received for his role in politics, including bumper stickers reading "My governor can beat up your governor," has caused the onslaught of such celebrities as Arnold Schwarzenegger and Warren Beatty to speak of running for California governor and president, respectively, as well as real-estate mogul Donald Trump's plans for running for presidency.

The 1990s brought about sweeping changes in politics; however, no one knows the types of changes the new century will bring.



A major trend in the last century has been the movement of women from the home to the workplace. Who says you can't have it all?

1990 • 1991 • 1992 • 1993 • 1994 • 1995 • 1996 • 1997 • 1998 • 1999

LOOKING
BACK

Changes Experienced in Sports

By Jennifer Samuels

CENTERSPREAD EDITOR

In the sports world, the 1990s will always be remembered as an era of change. Many major sporting milestones occurred that will contribute to this significant decade. The decade opened with a bang as the International Olympic Committee decided to separate the summer and winter games, spacing them apart by two years. The 1994 Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway, will always be remembered for the controversy that marred the figure skating competition. American skater Tonya Harding, fearing that she would not receive a position on the Olympic team, was involved in an injury on figure skater Nancy Kerrigan. However, based on her previous accomplishments Kerrigan was awarded a spot on the Olympic team, along with Harding. Kerrigan went on to win a bronze - Oksana Baiul won the gold - but Harding, had a disappointing performance. The 1996 Summer Games in

Atlanta will always be remembered for the amazing performance by the women's gymnastics team. Fearing that they would lose the gold medal to Russia, gymnast Kerri Strugg performed her final vault on a broken ankle, thus securing the gold for the United States and making her a national hero in the process. Overall, the 1990s allowed the United States to develop a dominance in many Olympic sports.

The decade was also characterized by many achievements in professional sports. Tiger Woods burst onto the scene, revitalizing golf with its first real sex symbol. The New York Yankees became known as the team of the decade after they ended the 1990s by winning the World Series. But no sport experienced as great a resurgence as women's soccer. Towards the end of the 1990s, the women's team began to gain more notoriety. Capitalizing on a win in the 1996 Olympics, they quickly became the team to beat. Soccer fever reached an all-time

high in 1999 as more people than ever before viewed the women's World Cup to see America win. The Chicago Bulls became one of the most decorated basketball teams ever and their star, Michael Jordan, became a national hero. He retired once to try his luck at minor-league baseball, but went back to basketball rather quickly. He finally retired in 1999, ending an era of basketball that will be hard to recreate.

Unfortunately, the 1990s were also filled with tragic deaths, including that of golfer Payne Stewart, who was killed when his airplane crashed. Legendary baseball player Joe DiMaggio died as well, leaving many people mourning and praising his memory.

There were also some very strange occurrences in the sporting world during the 1990s. Perhaps the oddest of these events was the infamous "ear" incident. Boxer Mike Tyson, during one of his first fights after being released

from prison for spousal abuse, bit off part of rival Evander Holyfield's ear in what will most definitely be remembered as a bizarre event. The incident got him banned from boxing for awhile, and, for obvious reasons, also got him ordered into counseling.

Some consider wrestling a sport, others do not. Whatever it is, one cannot overlook the impact that professional wrestling has had on the United States. Wrestling was not popular in the early 1990s. The majority of its fans were teenage males and slightly older adults who enjoyed it for its brutal fights and over-the-top stars, such as Hulk Hogan. However, the mid-1990s found wrestling growing in popularity. It gained new fans, including women, and became more soap-opera like with regards to storylines and characters. However, it is a widely-known fact that wrestling is staged, therefore putting its athletic merit into question.

Sports in the 1990s will be known as an era of change.

Significant
Events of the
Last
Millennium

Looking back on the millennium that has just ended, what events will stick out in the history books as the most significant? *The Sabres' Blade's* choices for most important:

The Roman Empire

The Moon Landing

The Internet and
Computers

The Refrigerator

Telephones

Television

The Printing Press

The Renaissance

AIDS/HIV

Atomic Warfare

Airplanes

Calculators (who
could live without
their TI-83??)

Significant World Events

By Larisa Yasinovskaya
BUSINESS MANAGER

The '90s have undergone many changes in the world. Both political and social events took place that left everlasting marks upon the world.

A huge world event with which the decade began was the end of the cold war and eventual fall of the Soviet Empire. This meant economic hardships for recovering Russia, but it also meant the end of a four and half decade struggle with and fear of communist USSR. This change brought about more friendly relations between Russia and the U.S. However, the former Soviet Union has continued to have problems establishing a working government, culminating in president Boris Yeltsin's resignation in late 1999 only months before the next election.

During the 1990s America was very involved in Middle Eastern events. The Gulf War in 1990 was started to try and thwart Sadaam Hussein's evil plans to take over the world,

starting with Kuwait; additionally, America also needed to secure its oil supply from Kuwait. Israel, a country often in the middle of world conflicts, celebrated its 50th birthday in 1999, a huge milestone in its independence and history.

Two events happened in '99 that shocked and depressed the world: the death of the much loved Mother Teresa and the death of the Princess of Wales, Diana. Memorials were held in the honor of the two world icons across the globe, and much mourning followed the tragic events.

Another conflict that arose on the world stage was humanitarian issues. Sweatshops, places that make clothing but have children and adults working in horrible conditions for pennies a day, were put into the spotlight. Kathie Lee Gifford received a lot of flack when the news came out that her clothing line was produced in sweatshops; however, she denied that she knew anything. Crimes

against humanity were also addressed, as Jews sued people involved with the Nazis to get back money stolen from them during the war. Finally, the elimination of groups of people based on their ethnicity did not end. This conflict was especially apparent in Africa, where massive civil wars broke out in countries such as Rwanda.

In technology news humanity finally landed a space probe on Mars, which was a huge milestone in space exploration and a forecaster as to how far humans can go. The internet explosion was a huge world changing event that ushered forth the information age. By providing easy access to massive amounts of information, the internet has made research and communication to people across the world as fast and easy as using a phone.

The 1990s saw many world changes, most of which were just the start of a new age that will take the world beyond present imagination.



The increase in new technology and scientific discoveries in the past century gives humanity great hope for the future. Who knows what will be discovered? To infinity and beyond!

The Sabres Blade wants to feature South's musicians. If you play in a band and would like to be featured, please submit your name to Ms. Holm in B-2. Thank you!

TOP 5 ALBUMS

1. D'Angelo — *Voodoo*
2. Santana — *Supernatural*
3. Dr. Dre — *Dr. Dre 2001*
4. Celine Dion — *All the Way...*
5. Christina Aguilera — *Christina Aguilera*

TOP 10 MOVIES

1. *Scream 3*
2. *The Hurricane*
3. *Stuart Little*
4. *Next Friday*
5. *Eye of the Beholder*
6. *The Green Mile*
7. *Galaxy Quest*
8. *Down to You*
9. *Girl, Interrupted*
10. *The Talented Mr...*

— information compliments of *The Charlotte Observer*

Hot Spot Feature: Pike's Soda Shop

By Laura King
STAFF ARTIST

For those of you who are tired of constantly going out to eat at mainstream places, Pike's Soda Shop is a privately owned restaurant that boasts a good atmosphere as well as good food. There are two locations in Charlotte. The original is found on Shamrock Drive alongside Pike's Pharmacy, while the newer location is in the South End area.

Pike's Soda Shop is a 1950s style cafe, and its interior provides an exceptional character that contemporary restaurants typically lack. The first thing customers will see when they walk in is a genuine retro lunch counter, with spinning bar stools, soda fountains and chocolate cakes in glass cases. An authentic jukebox plays music almost constantly. Beyond the lunch counter is a larger dining area, with stylish tables as well as booths carved out of old post office fronts. Decorating the walls are 1950s artifacts such as advertisements and pharmacy signs. Overhead lighting is provided by interesting fixtures from nearly half a century ago, rather than the boring, tiresome ones of modern day. In short, Pike's Soda Shop offers an experience customers can find almost nowhere else.

In addition to the atmosphere, Pike's Soda Shop stays true to the 1950s in creating their menu. Featured items include entrees such as honey pecan

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1930 Camden Rd.
372-0092

fried chicken, various sandwiches, and chicken fantastic. In addition, their menu offers classics, like cheeseburgers and hotdogs, that almost everyone has a soft spot for. As for side orders, some of the available items are french fries, potato salad and fresh fruit. For anyone who has a sweet tooth, the desserts are definitely one of the best parts of Pike's Soda Shop. Some of the favorites are thick milkshakes from the bar, ice cream floats, rich, elaborate sundaes and generous banana splits. The menu offers something for just about everyone.

For those of you who like to save your money, Pike's Soda Shop is cost efficient. The most expensive item on the menu is just over seven dollars, and most of them cost far less. So if you are looking for a cheap meal but just aren't in the mood for Bojangles', the quaint little restaurant called Pike's Soda Shop is definitely worth your time.

The Sabres' Blade features a little-known Charlotte "hot spot" in each issue.



Guest Photographer

ZerOsum Finds Instant Success

By Laura King
STAFF ARTIST

On January 4th, 2000 at Fat City, a band called ZerOsum introduced themselves to the public, playing an open stage along with established blues specialist Abraham Reid. The band features two South musicians; drummer Jay Brown is a junior, and senior John Edwards plays bass. Guitarist Jason Mills is a former South Meck student, and 20-year-old singer Ryan Whalen is a Providence graduate.

ZerOsum came together in July of 1999; since then, they have written ten original songs. There's a remarkable chemistry that exists; in a sense, they are a "hybrid" band. They are appealing to a wide range of lis-

teners because of the diversity that is characteristic of their playing styles. Jay's playing heavily reflects the jazzy style of Carter Beauford of the Dave Matthews Band; Ryan follows the music of bands like Rush and Tool. Jason's "crunchy" guitar riffs resemble those of Michael Einziger of Incubus, while John looks to the Dave Matthews Band and Flea of the Red Hot Chili Peppers for his inspiration. The result of such an unusual combination is a unique, stylized sound that really does offer something for almost everyone. Jason believes that it "works because it doesn't make any sense."

Unlike many bands, ZerOsum plays solely for the love of what they do. "We hate

Rage [Against the Machine] and other 'complaint rock' bands!" says John. "We have no message to spread, no point to prove. We're just a couple of musicians doing what we love to do."

Despite their laid-back, fun-loving attitude, ZerOsum has set several goals for themselves and anticipates success in the near future. In regards to the January 4th show, it is only the beginning. The band has been invited back to the club to play on Tuesdays, and has their own show slated for some time next month. In addition, they are currently exploring opportunities at the Milestone, Tremont Music Hall, and the Irish Cue in Davidson. Their ultimate goal is to play at the Weenie Roast at Blockbuster Pavilion within two years. For now, though, ZerOsum will depend on their Fat City shows and upcoming demo tape to bring them success.

From the looks of it, ZerOsum has a bright future ahead of them. In addition to talent, they claim convenience; none of the band's members plan to be leaving Charlotte anytime soon, especially since the lone graduating senior will be attending UNC-Charlotte. Realistically, ZerOsum hopes to be a musical success in Charlotte; anything else is just icing on the cake. They appear to be well on their way.

For more information on ZerOsum and upcoming shows, contact one of the members or call Fat City at 343-0240.

Edwin McCain's New Album Messenger Earns Critical Acclaim

By Katy McClure
STAFF REPORTER

Master of the love ballad, Edwin McCain has returned to the music scene with his third album release, *Messenger*. The follow-up to his sophomore album, *Misguided Roses*, *Messenger* is full of beautiful love songs along with several up-beat recordings.

The album's first release, "I Could Not Ask for More," has done well on the radio, but lacks chart success. McCain has never had much Billboard success, perhaps because he is not a household name, or perhaps be-

cause he does not release music videos for his songs. Despite his lack of chart-toppers, McCain continues to receive critical acclaim for his music. *Messenger* is his most notable album yet, according to some.

His songs are very personal and relate to all people. McCain has a magical understanding of human emotion. If all you've heard of his music are his first three releases — "Solitude," "I'll Be," and "I Could Not Ask for More" — you are likely aware of his ability to capture emotion.

Most songs on *Messenger* are traditional to McCain's style; however, pop has influenced

parts of this album. "Do Your Thing" and "Anything Good About Me" both have more in common with pop music than with his traditional folk/rock/blues sound. Despite the appearance of a pop sound on the album, McCain has stayed true to his song writing and music.

The most amazing thing about his latest release is that it is easy to listen to the entire album in one sitting. *Messenger* is a truly heartfelt and beautiful album. It is one of the best of 1999. If you like bands like Vertical Horizon and Train, this album would be a valuable addition to your CD collection.

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Faces in the Crowd

Charlie Everett:

A Junior Who Is Not Afraid To Be Challenged

By Katy McClure
STAFF REPORTER

Charlie Everett is known to many students as a funny, down-to-earth junior. However, behind his comical laid-back style, Charlie strives to challenge himself everyday. With numerous sports, clubs, and hobbies to keep him busy, he maintains, "I'm pretty much always busy."

Charlie is a proud second-year member of the varsity soccer and basketball teams. He achieved both of these positions as a sophomore, a feat few have accomplished. Charlie's favorite class is PE and he formerly worked at The Finish Line at Carolina Place.

Though sports may seem to dominate Charlie's life, he balances himself by taking his school work seriously.



In CD Player: Dave Matthews
Favorite Boy Band: None
Favorite Food: Pizza
Pet Peeve: Slow Drivers

In order to maintain his honor roll grades with AP English and AP US History, he knows he must work hard. "I want to be rich," Charlie says. "I don't care how I do it, I just want to." If his involvement in National Honor Society and National Spanish Honor Society are any indication, he is well on his way.

Among Charlie's other activities, he is learning to play the guitar. "Philip Trotter got me started," he says. He is also an active member in Key Club. This outstanding student challenges himself with sports, academics and clubs, but says his hardest challenge, however, was moving from Kentucky to North Carolina in the sixth grade. Charlie has obviously adjusted well to life in Charlotte.

Sheila Chin:

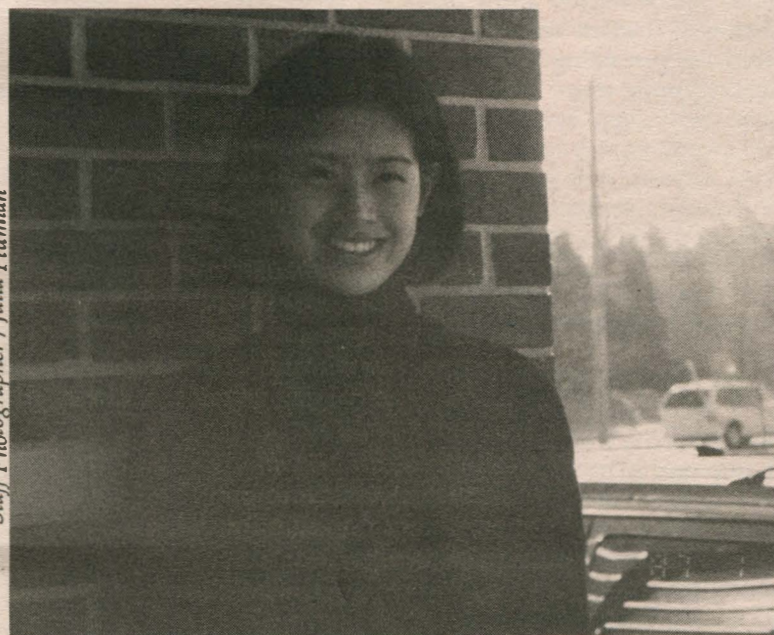
A Spirited, Fun-loving, Sophomore

Clark Barrineau
STAFF REPORTER

Where can you find the combination of intelligence, beauty, and school spirit? Sophomore Sheila Chin is the undeniable answer. As an active member of South Meck's class of 2002, Sheila strives to be a role model for other students in and out of school.

Despite the fact that Sheila is only in tenth grade, she has already achieved much in her two years. She was a junior varsity cheerleader during her freshman year and, as a sophomore, is now a varsity cheerleader. You can spot Sheila around campus several days a week in her cheerleading uniform.

Not only has Sheila earned the distinction of being a varsity cheerleader as a sophomore, she was also voted



Favorite Color: Blue
Favorite Subject: Drama
In CD Player: Dru Hill
In Her Purse: Loose Change

onto the Sophomore Homecoming Court by members of her class. Along with the other members of the Sophomore Court, Sheila wore a wedding dress in support of their movie theme, *Runaway Bride*.

Sheila is also active in YoungLif, and recently traveled to Windygap for a retreat. She was also inducted into the women's service club, SOS early this year. "Sheila is a great addition to SOS and we are very glad to have her as part of our club," says club president Cat Traphagan.

Outside of school, Sheila enjoys hanging out with her friends. She spends her weekends going out and having fun with them. As a final word, Sheila says, "Try to be yourself and not someone you aren't."

THE SABRES' BLADE

Opinion Question

Racism or Tradition?
What decision should be made about the Confederate Flag controversy in South Carolina?

"The Confederate flag should not be flown over the South Carolina State House. The State House should be representative of all the people as well as the state. It should not display a symbol which is clearly associated with the oppression and enslavement of its population. Furthermore, flying the flag shows that the state endorses the unethical imprisonment of people."

Tynisha Keitt
GRADE 12

"The Confederate flag should be flown because it is a matter of states' rights. There are many symbols desecrated by hate groups, such as the Christian cross and the American flag; they are obviously still honored. Therefore, it is not valid to take it down simply because of that use."

Anne Nguyen
GRADE 9

"It shouldn't because it was the state flag during the civil war and it makes people feel uncomfortable."

Ayumu Miura
GRADE 10

"It shouldn't matter so they should rip half of it up and rip half of the state flag up and stitch them together, that way everybody is happy."

Khim Le
GRADE 11

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Kim Sexton
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Hokies Proved They Belong

By John Lakas
SPORTS CO-EDITOR

The 1999-2000 college football season was one special year. The NCAA rushing record was broken by the Heisman winner, Ron Dayne. Peter Warrick, arguably the best college football player of the season, brought us excitement by embarrassing defenses and laughter for his pure ignorance off the field. Florida State and Bobby Bowden amazed us by completing their first perfect season. Yet, the best story of this football season was about a school three hours north of Charlotte named Virginia Tech.

Virginia Tech, also known as the Hokies, is a 25,000 student university in Blacksburg, Va. The Hokie football team has been making some noise in the '90s under head coach Frank Beamer. Though not many people know about them outside the state of Virginia. In 1993 the Hokies made their first bowl appearance in six years. Since then they have gone to seven straight bowls, including the Sugar and the Orange Bowl. This year they made their first-ever appearance in the national championship.

The road to the big game was far from a smooth ride. In 1992 Coach Beamer almost lost his job after a terrible season of 2-8-1. After that year the Hokie football team got serious and has not had a losing season since then. Virginia Tech has faced constant criticism from the media and other teams about how good a football program they really are. In the mid-90s the Hokies had trouble proving to the AP poll voters they were for real. Even in 1995 when they defeated (7) Texas in the Sugar bowl, the (10) Hokies just barely cracked the top ten at number nine for the final poll. This year a slightly different scenario emerged, the polls put Virginia Tech at number two before the season was even over. The media knew the Hokies had something special going but the misinformed college football fans thought the Hokies were a joke. Once again the Hokies proved them wrong by dominating their ranked opponents and giving Florida State a great game despite the score.

Virginia Tech would not have been in the Sugar Bowl this year if it weren't for one man named Michael Vick. Vick was a red-shirt freshman this year but he played with such poise and confidence, he looked like a fifth year senior. He demonstrated no physical weakness on the field, with lightning speed, a quick throwing release, and an arm the NFL scouts are drooling over.

Wondering if the Hokies miracle season was luck? Think again. The Hokies are only losing one starter on offense and the VT defense has not struggled in years. Coach Beamer and Michael Vick have vowed they will return to the big dance again before its over.

Wrestling Looking Good in 2000

By CHRIS AUSTIN | STAFF REPORTER

As the first South Meck wrestler steps out on the mat, the whole team will be ready. They're ready for the reward of winning. A reward paid for in months of sweat, blood, and discipline. The Sabres are led by Coach Kendrick who requires the best out of his wrestlers. If you are griping about a sore shoulder in practice, eventually you'll hear, "You've got two of them, keep going." Even though it hurts, South wrestlers know that he wants the best out of them. It's a tough sport where one on one

competition builds intensity and excitement.

South Meck wrestling is looking up in 2000. The team has put last year's disappointing season behind them and is moving forward. The team has four strong returning seniors in Matt Fay, Brian Johnson, Cameron Stinson, and Matt Monzenski. These leaders bring strength and experience to a young team. After coming from one of the toughest pre-seasons in the state, South wrestlers are diving head first into conference matches. Although the Sabres

have a strong team, every conference match promises to be a dog-fight to the end. There are a lot of decent teams out there this year, but no one seems to dominate in the conference. This means that there will be no room for slacking off if South plans to go all the way.

Wrestling is an intense sport, and South's '99-'00 team is coming out with fire. "We're here to win, and second just isn't going to be good enough," says Todd Bokus, a second year veteran. So look for South to be a darkhorse in the conference.

Warrick Steals the Show

By Alexi Neill
SPORTS CO-EDITOR

Another radical and exciting college football season has ended and this year the Florida State University Seminoles came out on top. The number one ranked Seminoles beat the number two ranked Virginia Tech Hokies with a score of 46-29 in the Sugar Bowl, which was the site of this year's BCS championship game.

There was a lot of hype and expectations going into the game and it lived up to all of them. FSU jumped out to an early 28-7 lead by half-time, marked by a 64 yard touchdown reception and a 59 yard punt return for a TD by wide receiver, Peter Warrick. The lead appeared insurmountable, but the Hokies would not surrender, scoring 18 unanswered points to take a one point lead with 2:13 remaining in the third quarter.

Florida State showed its poise, however, and answered with an 85 yard scoring drive to take a 36-29 lead. The turning point then came when freshman quarterback, Michael Vick, fumbled the ball at his 34 yard line. The Seminoles capitalized with a 33 yard Janikowski field goal to take a comfortable 10 point lead. The Hokies were then stuffed on a fake punt attempt and appropriately, Warrick sealed the deal with a spectacular, juggling TD catch.

Despite what the score indicates, it was an extremely close game. As a matter of fact, Virginia Tech seemed to be the better team, as they were able to drive the ball up and down the field on FSU, yet they could not score when they got deep into their opponent's territory. If you take away the three long plays by the Seminoles and the two squandered fake punt attempts by the Hokies, Tech probably would have come out on top. Nevertheless, VT simply could not convert and made some very bad plays on their usually solid special teams unit.

Peter Warrick was named the game's MVP after catching six passes for 163 yards and scoring 3 touchdowns. It was sweet redemption for Warrick and the Seminoles after he was held for only one reception in last year's loss in the championship game. Michael Vick also played an excellent game, despite his inexperience. He carried the entire Hokie team, passing for 225 yards and running for an additional 97 yards but his efforts were not quite enough.

Overall, it was an extremely exciting game and I am looking forward to next year's championship game and hopefully a NCAA team playoff within the next 10 years.

Jammin Joon's Picks for the College Basketball Season

By Joon Lee
STAFF REPORTER

Well, it's that time again. Time when college basketball finally gets exciting as the conference schedules get started and teams prepare themselves to reach that ultimate pinnacle: to win the national championship in March. A handful of quality teams are out there, but only four will survive until the Final Four and one will be left standing. Here are my picks for the Final Four, which are the cream of the crop.

1. Cincinnati

Yep. This is the team that has lost in the second round of the NCAA tournament for three straight years, but this year, coach Bob Huggins and the Bearcats will finally get over the hump and reach the Final Four. With three seniors (Pete Mickeal, Kenyon Martin, and Jermaine Tate) leading the way, the Bearcats should have no trouble with leadership. However, the development of super freshman Dermarr Johnson is a key to this team and so far, he has proven to be every bit as spectacular as expected. If the bench with Ryan Fletcher, Donald Little, and Kenny Satterfield holds up, look for the Bearcats to be holding that trophy in March.

2. Duke

Young? Definitely. Talented? You better believe it. After losing three players to the NBA (three first rounders) and one as a transfer, people around the nation were dubbing this a rebuilding year for Duke, but it doesn't look that way anymore. Star freshmen Jason Williams, Carlos Boozer, Michael Dunleavy Jr., Casey Sanders, and Nick Horvath are bringing back memories of the Fab Five while Shane Battier and Chris Carrawell - the lone senior on the team, are providing leadership for the young ones. This team goes eight deep, but their one key problem is ball-handling with only one true point guard on the team - Williams. So Duke will go as far as these young freshmen can take them, but give Coach K the right pieces and who knows what will happen?

3. Arizona

Lute Olson finally got it right when he won the national championship back in '97. Look for him to be competing for one again. His team is loaded with talent as usual, but they're young (then again, so was his '97 team). The one junior in the starting lineup, Loren Woods, may turn out to be one of the best big men Olson has ever had and sophomore Richard

Jefferson provides the scoring. With freshman point guard Jason Gardner living up to his billing, the Wildcats only need to overcome depth to win it all. Hey, it could happen.

4. Syracuse

I know I'll get blasted for this pick but oh well, I'll be the one doing the talking when Jim Boeheim has his Orangemen in the Final Four. At this point, they remain the only unbeaten team in the nation, albeit an easy schedule, but they do have talent and the factor that I believe will separate them from the rest - experience. With the inside combination of seniors Ryan Blackwell and Etan Thomas, and the playmaking ability of yet another senior, Jason Hart, the 'Cuse has the option of just dumping it down to their big men when in need of scoring. Also, look for freshman DeShaun Williams to make a huge impact as an outside shooter, which will be his primary role on this team.

Well, there you have it, the Final Four as I see it happening. Oh yeah, I forgot one thing, didn't I? I have to pick a winner and let's see here, who is the lucky team that will get the distinction of being picked by yours truly? Ahh, that would be none other than the Wildcats of Arizona.

JOON'S Prime Time Players

1. Scoonie Penn, Ohio State
2. Kenyon Martin, Cincinnati

3. Jason Gardner, Arizona
4. Erick Barkley, St. John's
5. Shane Battier, Duke

Answer to Teacher Mysteries: Mr. Blanton by Larisa Yasinovskaya and Mr. Rose by John Lakas

Answers to Senior Mysteries: Graham Long and Terrisha Hardin

Teacher Mysteries



By Larisa Yasinovskaya
BUSINESS MANAGER

This teacher is easily recognizable as one of the three amigos, the other two include Boykin and Machado. He teaches AG, Advanced and Regular World History in F building. He is known by his present and former students for the "_____ Salute," fill in the name in the line. This Rutherfordton-born is also easily recognizable by any one of the many sweater-vests he wears. He is famous for waking up sleeping students with his "olephant" and "woodsock and hot-dogs." Finally, he is the one teacher who has a sarcophagus in his room. Still stumped? Turn to page 10 for the answer.



By John Lakas
SPORTS CO-EDITOR

This teacher mystery grew up in the town where the atomic bomb was created. He attended Cumberland College and then later attended the University of Tennessee. There he recieved two majors, one of them being in sociology. He started teaching in 1970 and eventually moved to Charlotte. In Charlotte he started teaching at JM Alexander Junior High. From there he went to Harding for five years and ended up at South in 1985. He enjoys painting in his spare time and traveling. Still unsure about who this teacher is? Check page 10.

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